

**STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD  
CENTRAL COAST REGION**

**STAFF REPORT FOR REGULAR MEETING OF DECEMBER 1, 2011**

Prepared on October 13, 2011

**ITEM NUMBER: 17**

**SUBJECT: Revision of Waste Discharge Requirements Order No. R3-2011-0223, Reissuance of National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System General Permit No. CAG993001 for Discharges with Low Threat to Water Quality**

**STAFF CONTACT: Sheila Soderberg 805/549-3592 or [ssoderberg@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:ssoderberg@waterboards.ca.gov)**

**KEY INFORMATION**

Discharger: Any person, partnership, firm, corporation, association, trust estate, or any other legal entity

Location: Locations throughout the Central Coast Region

Type of Discharge: Municipal, industrial, or residential water supply operations, commercial wash water, cooling water, evaporative condensate, treated bilge water, construction operations, etc.

Waste Types: Chlorine and chlorination by-products; salts; oil and grease; nitrate; suspended, settleable, and total dissolved solids.

Permitted Flow: Continuous discharges up to 0.1 million gallons per day (MGD) for cooling water and evaporative condensate. Desalination brine and other discharges up to 0.05 MGD  
Batch discharges for specific situations up to 0.25 MGD for up to three months duration. Construction dewatering for sites less than 1-acre may discharge up to 0.1 MGD for up to 1 year

Type of Treatment: Not applicable

Disposal Method: Surface water discharge

Solid Wastes: Not applicable

Existing Orders: Waste Discharge Requirements Order No. R3-2006-0063

Reclamation: Not applicable

**This Action: Adopt Order No. R3-2011-0223**

**DISCUSSION**

Low-threat discharges are discharges containing minimal amounts to low amounts of pollutants and pose little or no threat to water quality and the environment. These low-threat discharges include water generated during municipal well installation, development, and testing and performing routine maintenance of uncontaminated water supply wells, pipelines, and tanks. Water purveyors will also disinfect water supply pipelines, tanks, and reservoirs as well as hydrostatically test these vessels for system integrity. City fire departments periodically test or flush fire hydrants to ensure these operate properly when fire suppression is needed. Other low threat discharges include: commercial cooling tower water, evaporative condensate, seafood processing wash water, treated bilge water from small watercraft, swimming pool, and landscape

pool drainage. These wastewaters may be treated and discharged on either a continuous or batch basis at generally low flows. The Fact Sheet, included as Attachment 1, is the Statement of Basis for this minor general permit.

### **No Substantive Changes from the Existing Order**

Central Coast Water Board staff expects that the State Water Resources Control Board will be preparing a statewide, general NPDES permit for low-threat discharges within the next two to three years. As the statewide permit will take some time to prepare, Central Coast Water Board staff proposes to reissue our general permit now, as this will provide continuity of coverage to current enrollees.

Because a statewide general permit will be comprehensive and all inclusive, Central Coast Water Board staff did not substantively revise the new Order from the previous Order the Board adopted in 2006. Central Coast Water Board staff did update Appendix D (the Priority Pollutant List) to include changes in regulatory standards since Order No. R3-2006-0063 was adopted. Proposed Order No. R3-2011-0223 is included as Attachment 2.

### **COMMENTS**

One written comment was received during the public comment period, which ended October 13, 2011. Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary staff requested that brine discharges from desalination be prohibited into the Sanctuary. Central Coast Water Board staff agrees with the Sanctuary's comment and revised the draft permit to include this prohibition. This prohibition is consistent with previous Water Board practice and agreement with the Sanctuary.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

Adopt Order No. R3-2011-0223, as proposed.

### **ATTACHMENTS**

For copies of the draft permit, please refer to the Central Coast Water Board's internet website at: [http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralcoast/board\\_info/agendas/2011/2011\\_agendas.shtml](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralcoast/board_info/agendas/2011/2011_agendas.shtml)

1. Fact Sheet
2. Proposed Order No. R3-2011-0223, including the following attachments:
  - Attachment A – Notice of Intent
  - Attachment B – Monitoring and Reporting Program
  - Attachment C – Notice of Termination
  - Attachment D – Priority Pollutant Table
  - Attachment E – Standard Provisions